

September 25, 2019

Clifford Street Elementary School  
2150 Duane Street  
Los Angeles, California 90026

Dear Mr. Dang:

Thank you for providing the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) with an opportunity to investigate and respond to your water quality concerns.

This letter is in response to your request for a written record of the water quality inspection conducted at 2150 Duane Street, Clifford Street Elementary School, on September 16, 2019. Results of the testing are enclosed.

The inspection was conducted in response to a complaint regarding a bad taste and murky water.

At the time of the inspection, the water from the exterior drinking fountain by the Hopper Room was slightly yellow but the discoloration cleared up within a 1 minute flush. The playground drinking fountain water was not discolored but it was cloudy; the cloudiness cleared up within a 1 minute flush. The water at the drinking fountain in Room 9 was clear and colorless. The water supply to the property was clear and colorless. There is no unusual odor detected at the four locations.

The yellow discoloration is due to iron rust in the water; it is harmless. The cloudy water is due to dissolved air in the water; it is also harmless. Both the discoloration and the cloudiness are common problems that occur with construction activity.

At the inspection, the fountain was flushed for 3 minutes to raise the residual but the value still fell short of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's minimum residual disinfectant level of 0.2 milligram per liter (mg/L); the chloramine residual at the fountain did not exceed 0.07 mg/L. It was assumed that the Room 9 water was filtered but if that is not the case, then a longer flushing period is required. I recommend flushing until the chloramine residual reaches 0.5 mg/L.


Mr. Kyle Dang  
Page 2  
September 25, 2019

The laboratory results indicate that no harmful bacteria were present. Some heterotrophic bacteria were detected at the three drinking fountain locations. Heterotrophic bacteria are the total sum of all bacteria present. These microorganisms are environmental, naturally occurring, and harmless. The color and turbidity values are normal. No unusual odors were detected.

LADWP has a stringent and comprehensive water quality monitoring and testing program. LADWP conducts more than 120,000 laboratory tests on more than 36,000 samples collected throughout the year for over 200 different contaminants. The California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, approves this program and LADWP works to ensure your water supply meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Water Quality Customer Care Group at (213) 367-3182, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Koon Lui".

Koon Lui  
Water Quality Inspector

KL:jo  
Enclosure

Results for 2150 Duane Street Inspection (September 16, 2019):

TEST		Supply to Property	Hopper Room Exterior Fountain (middle spigot)	Playground Fountain (middle spigot)	Room 9 Fountain	State/Federal Drinking Water Standards	Samples Meet Standards
Total Chloramine Residual (mg/L)		1.22	1.05	0.20	0.03	4.0 MRDL	Yes
Temperature (°C)		26.0	24.3	25.3	24.2	NS	N/A
Conductivity (µS/cm)		380	380	420	420	1600 SMCL	Yes
pH		8.17	8.23	8.20	7.95	6.5 – 8.5 SMCL	Yes
Odor threshold at 60°C (TON)		ND	ND	ND	ND	3 SMCL	Yes
Odor threshold at 60°C, description		none	none	none	none	N/S	N/A
Color (ACU)		4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	15 SMCL	Yes
Turbidity (NTU)		ND	0.40	ND	ND	5 SMCL	Yes
Bacterial Analysis	Total Coliforms (MPN/100mL)	ND	ND	ND	ND	0 MCL	Yes
	E. Coli (MPN/100mL)	ND	ND	ND	ND	0 MCL	Yes
	Heterotrophic plate count (cfu/mL)	ND	34	42	53	NS	N/A

**Abbreviations:**

ug/L indicates micrograms per liter, or “parts per billion” (ppb)  
 mg/L indicates milligrams per liter, or “parts per million” (ppm)  
 cfu/mL indicates colony-forming units per milliliter of water  
 MPN/100 mL indicates most probable number per 100 milliliters  
 µS/cm = microsiemens per centimeter  
 TON = threshold odor number  
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit  
 ACU = Apparent Color Unit

MRDL: maximum residual disinfection level.

MCL: maximum contaminant level. The MCL is the maximum amount of a constituent in the water allowed by state and federal drinking water standards.

SMCL: secondary maximum contaminant level. This measures aesthetic values such as color, taste and appearance.

ND: Not detected

NS: No standard

### **Explanation of Results:**

Chloramine Residual: The chloramine residual is a measurement of the disinfectant present in the water supply. The "total" residual is the total amount of chloramine, bound and unbound in the water supply. We are required to maintain a minimum of 0.2 mg/L and maximum of 4.0 mg/L total chloramine everywhere in our water distribution system.

pH: The pH measures the acidity or basicity of water. A value 7 is neutral; less than 7 is acidic and above 7 is basic.

Conductivity: Specific conductance measures the ability of water to conduct electrical current. This ability is proportional to the number of ions in the water and correlates well with the concentration of total dissolved solids, such as calcium bi-carbonates, sulfate, potassium, sodium, etc. They occur naturally in water and are either harmless or moderately beneficial to human health.

Odor Results: The Threshold Odor Test is a measurement of a qualitative description and approximate quantitative measurement of odor intensity. It is performed by diluting a sample with odor-free water until the least perceptible odor is observed. There is no absolute threshold odor concentration, because of inherent variation in individual sensory receptor capability.

Color: Color in water may result from the presence of natural metallic ions (irons, copper, manganese, etc). The term "apparent color" is used herein to mean true color due to substances in water including suspended matter. Apparent color is determined by visual comparison of the original sample (without filtration or centrifugation) with known concentrations of colored solutions. Comparison also may be made with special glass colored disks if they have been properly calibrated.

Turbidity: Turbidity is a physical property of water where the amount of light is measured through a fixed distance. The unit used is NTU, an abbreviation, for Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Higher turbidities may hinder the effectiveness of the disinfectant (chlorine or chloramines) used to treat the water.

## **Bacterial Results:**

Total Coliforms: Coliform bacteria are the organisms, which indicate possible presence of “pathogenic” or disease-causing organisms (e.g., Salmonella, certain strains of E. coli, Shigella)

Escherichia coli or E. Coli: E. Coli are bacteria found in the intestines of mammals. Their presence may indicate fecal contamination of the water.

Heterotrophic Plate Count of Bacteria: The water supply is disinfected, but not sterilized. “Heterotrophic Bacteria” are the total sum of all bacteria present. These organisms are harmless, and are merely environmental or naturally occurring micro-organisms.